

# BROWN GENEALOGY

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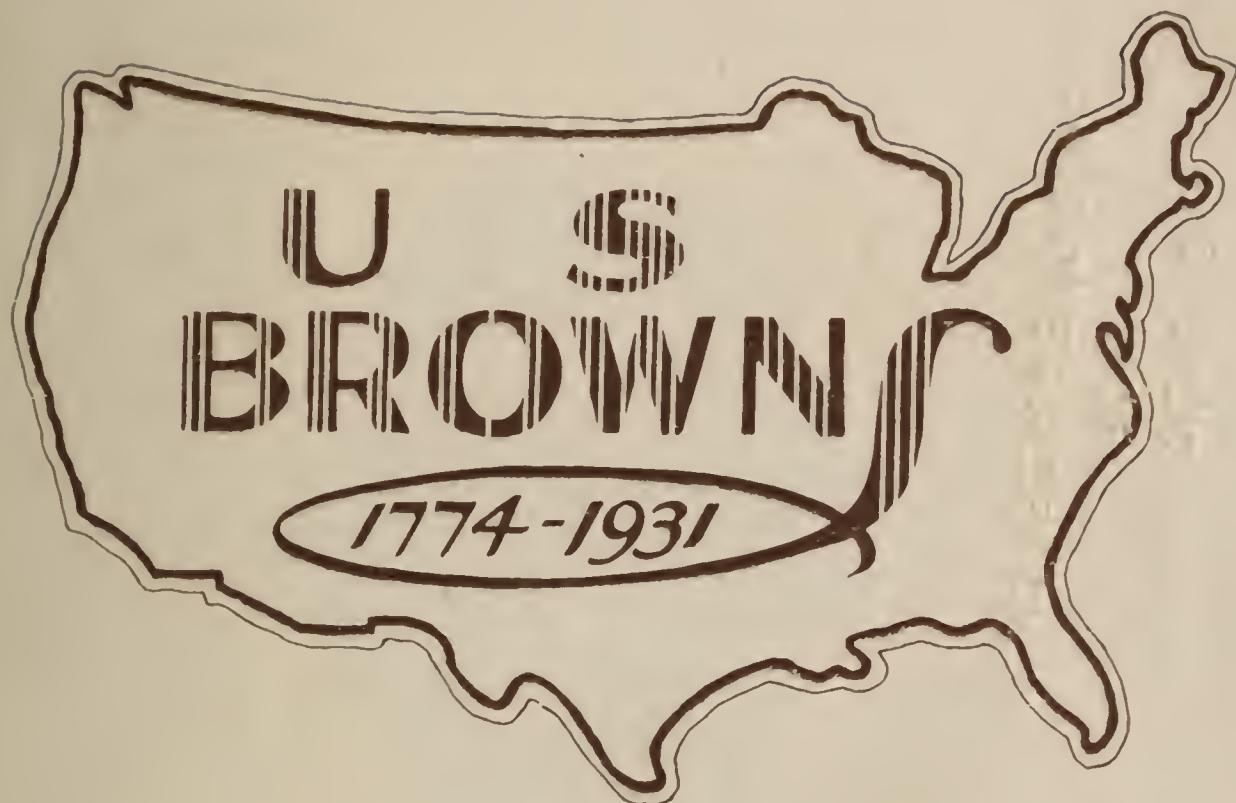


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Willis H. Miller



by

Elaine Brown





CHARLES BROWN

1744—1863

1774—

## APPRECIATION

To all who so willingly gave assistance in the preparation and correction of this text, the writer expresses his heartfelt thanks. Without your help and co-operation, the task would have been indeed difficult. I hope this booklet may serve its purpose in a better understanding and a closer relationship between all of us Browns.

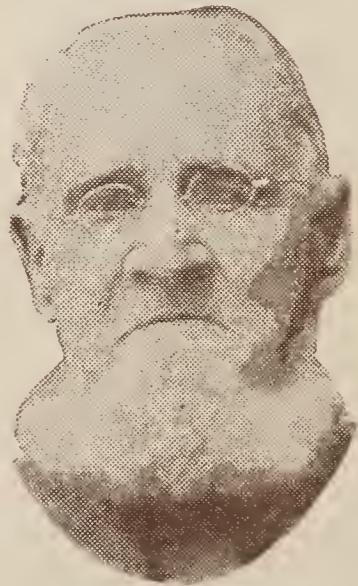
As great nations run, America is a comparative youngster. Yet, it bears its weight of years well, is fairly strong for its age and upon occasion has amply demonstrated its virility and position among other nations. In fact, it is quite a lusty youth and well able to give good account of itself.

Curiously enough, definite record and history of our branch of the Brown family, run concurrently with that of our nation. The span of the last one and one-half century, encompasses such of our ancestry as can be definitely traced.

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Owing to the commonness of our family name, all attempts to positively identify our lineage further back than 1774, seem to end in a hopeless maze and mass of uncertainty. Irvin Cobb his rightly said that the Brown family tree is a whole forest. And to identify the particular oak which dropped the acorn that brought forth its neighbor, is a task well beyond us.

It might tickle our vanity to look back through the dim and distant past and envision a heraldry of "bonnets and plumes and armored knights." Whose pulse would not quicken at the thought that the blood of Ivan-



hoe or William the Conqueror or Richard the Lion Hearted ran through his veins?

Yet, it is a matter of fact and physiology that the dilution of all that noble circulation becomes rather homoeopathic with the cycles of human existence; and the boast of Norman blood is not today a definite guarantee of greatness. Contributory currents often alter the course of mighty rivers.



If, indeed, we were sure of knightly and pompous ancestry, it would discomfort us in this day to scan ourselves and relatives and find none who might measure up to the glitter and greatness of such forebears, even whose faults might dazzle us and thereby become virtues.

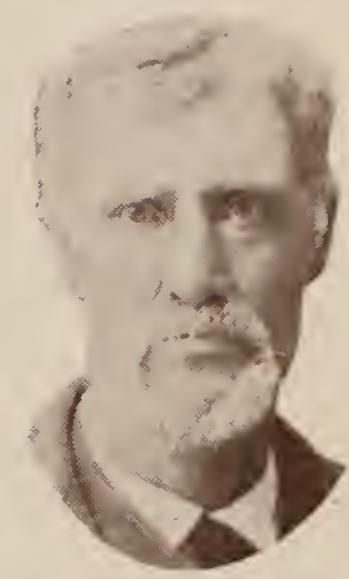
The study of genealogy is of small worth in appraising human values; conclusions are too often contradicted by facts. But it is a fact well within the knowledge of the present generation that the best traditions of our own good ancestry have been amply evidenced. In every American war, the blood of our lineage has been given in what we believed to be the right. National defense and the integrity of sound American ideals have always been upheld. And in crises, our forefathers, fathers

and brothers have offered the ultimate; no family can do more.

We can also be sure of this; that in the progress and development of our country, we have played our part. In profession or perspiration we have been and are today just as active and prominent as we appear in city directories. Of tough and deeply rooted vitality, we find callouses as common as cranial bumps and therein may lie the secret of our strength and virility.

Our heritage has come straight to us; there are no personages in our lineage so high and mighty that the rest of us suffer by comparison. And conversely, the depths are happily void of record of those who bear our name; we thus find plenty of ground for encouragement in the eternal laws of compensation. A family so well and evenly knit must be of good fabric.

If we acknowledge Adam as the head of our family, we must agree that no ancestry can go back much further with reasonable degree of proof and certainty. A few generations unintentionally lost track of may be a blank, but not a blot on the family escutcheon. Perhaps our sires were too busy just then to jot



down a few names and dates which would have only been confusing a few centuries later on. Yet we must admit that they might have made good reading. After all, about the only difference between a one dollar bill and a twenty is the "reading" on it; the paper is identically the same in either case.

We are therefore precisely what we are and what we are known to be. Our position in life today is exactly the result of our own decisions and actions of yesterday. We are glibly told that through heredity we acquire poise and polish, balance and decision and that every conclusion we arrive at was dictated and influenced by the outcome of similar circumstances which confronted our forebears, maybe hundreds of years ago. The whole structure of the theoretical royal right to rule is based upon this presumption. But so-called hereditary traits and capabilities are in many cases nothing more than instinct—or the right guess. Heredity and the natal succession of place and power and position have served their end; the big fact remains that healthy, virile men and women are today amply able to take care of themselves and in our chosen America, are really masters of their own destiny.



There is ample ground for belief that our distant ancestors were Crusaders. Perhaps with mace and sword and in armor bright, they stood at Malta and held back the pagan hordes which would have overrun and destroyed Christendom. And again, our forebears may have and undoubtedly did, make long and tedious pilgrimages to the Holy Land and gave their blood to wrest the birthplace of Christianity from the infidels.

We may well believe this, for our branch of the Brown family is essentially and by tradition, a race of pioneers and builders and defenders of empire. Here and there, we find communities who through marriage, have definitely settled, and in most cases have prospered. But it is a matter of record that in the parent strain, there has always been a burning wish and desire to see the land just beyond the horizon.

Undoubtedly of English descent, our forefathers came to America and we acknowledge "York State" as our parent American soil. When New York became too crowded, the next westerly migration was to northern Indiana; and there today are broad acres which testify to the industry and aggressiveness of our more immediate ancestry. With the com-



ing of more years, we find our kin in the farthest reaches of the West; and there is a rather definitely blazed trail of Brown travel and enterprise from Broadway to the Golden Gate.

It is tradition with us that no wayfarer has left our door without having received shelter; and the hungry have always been fed. In bearing our own burdens, we have always found time and occasion to help others bear theirs. Yet, we have been uniformly thrifty to the point of and even beyond, independence.

In every home you will find old prints and pictures—tintypes and daguerreotypes of sainted aunts and uncles and grandparents, around whose heavy tables we sat as youths! And all those wonderful memories made of Thanksgiving and Christmas, a great deal more than just a date on the calendar. What a glorious heritage all those lace-bedecked aunts and grandmothers gave us with their Yuletide cakes and cookies!

Aunt Jane Smith—Aunt Mary Brown—Aunt Sally Ann Haines—one could go on with the list indefinitely. Uncle Morris—Uncle Calvin—and a legion of bearded men who cleared



the forest, made open acres and fields and fenced them with stout oaken rails and built for themselves, new and happy homes in the wilderness. We remember their log cabins, their homely fare, their honest, homespun clothes. They were patriarchs all and we never stopped to fix our own exact relationship to them when we reverently addressed them as "Aunt" or "Uncle". God bless them all!

Only a few brief yesterdays ago they were our own living, flesh and blood neighbors and we saw them and talked with them often. Today, they are our ancestry. And in a few brief tomorrows, we of today will be only a memory to those who are to come and take our parts and places in the eternal drama.

Our most remote and definitely known ancestor was Charles Brown, who was born in 1774—a year before the guns at Concord and Lexington were heard round the world—and we know that he was of American birth. Every tradition seems to prove that his father, too, was born in America. It appears equally certain it was at least two and more likely three generations preceding him, that our more remote ancestry settled in America. So we can





claim American identification from about 1650. Thus, our American branch of the Brown family had over a century's residence at the outbreak of the War of the Revolution. These are family traditions handed down from father to son, but never in definitely written record until the compilation of this text.

There is an almost uniform repetition of family surnames, features and characteristics all through our lineage, which continues to this day. And even if the most meagre notes had been kept in former years, we could have more certainly fixed such data as would have today made this an easy task.

Part of the information we have is admittedly legend and reminiscence, but so fairly and often repeated that we may well rely upon it. Much other history now accepted as genuine and authentic and no better corroborated is now taken as clear record; so in the absence of proof to the contrary, we shall assume the foregoing paragraphs.

Here and there a thread of information, names and dates in old book covers or on the backs of faded tintypes, an occasional worn and yellowed clipping — all these have been put together piecemeal so that we have what

we believe to be good ground for every statement made.

Events and occurrences of today which may seem unimportant and commonplace to us now, may mean much to those who are to come after us. And the main object of this booklet is to set in type and thus preserve to future generations, the facts now known to us, so that fifty or a hundred years hence, our posterity may know more definitely and with full assurance, the lineage we have thus established.

Beginning with Charles Brown (1774-1863), whose long life embraced the years of the foundation, defense and perpetuation of the American Republic, we have definitely built the history of our family into the following record. Blank pages appear in the back of this brochure and it is suggested that each member of the family use these pages to note and record births, marriages, deaths, and all other matters of family history so that when a new volume is printed — and the writer suggests that this be done each generation — we can add new history to that already known.



Charles Brown, (1774-1863) was father to six sons and five daughters, as follows;

- 1 Sally Lockwood, who left no children.
- 2 Lydia Dixon, of whom we have no further record.
- 3 Phoebe, who first married a Christian and by this marriage, were born a son, George, and a daughter. By a later marriage, to a Dixon and to this second marriage, there were no children.
- 4 Mary Wilson, who left no children.
- 5 Thomas Brown, no children.
- 6 Gilson Brown, whose posterity is more fully treated of in the following pages.
- 7 Calvin Brown, who likewise will appear for further genealogy.
- 8 Robert Brown, of whom we will hear more later.
- 9 George Brown, whose family history is more fully written.
- 10 Jane Hoyt Smith, who left no children.
- 11 Charles Brown, more history in following pages.

Of the above son Gilson<sup>6</sup> we have fairly accurate knowledge as follows: by his first wife, Evangeline, there were two sons, John Charles and George, and a daughter, Jennie Brownell.

By a second wife, three sons; Orla, Callie and Gilson.

By a third wife, two sons and a daughter; Melzie, Guy and Carrie. Gilson Brown in about 1895 went to Doland, South Dakota and with him went the five sons and the daughter by his last two marriages. The sons appear to have scattered mostly west and northwest and for several years we have had no word from them.

The first son of Gilson Brown by his first marriage was John Charles who married Lodema Hall and was father of three sons and a daughter; Blaine, Clayton (Joe), Hattie and Rex. To Blaine were born no children; to Clayton a daughter, Marion, and a son, Richard Blaine; to Hattie McKinley, twin daughters, Elaine and Eleanor; to Rex, no children. To Marion Wiles, daughter of Clayton, was born a daughter, Alice.

To George Brown, son of Gilson Brown, were born five sons and a daughter. To Ora and Clyde were born no children; to Leon, were born Kenneth, Florence, Evelyn, Leon Jr., and Wava. To Earl were born Angeline and Willis. To Lila Wells, a son, Jack. To Ralph were born Carson, Melvin and Helen.

To Jennie Brownell were born one son and four daughters; Hattie, Allie Smith, Pearl,

Bernice and Perrin. To Hattie Brownell were born no children. To Allie Smith, three sons; Clark, LaVerne and Elden. To Pearl Brownell were born no children. To Perrin, one son Perrin Jr. To La Verne was born a daughter, Barbara June, and to Clark, a daughter, Margaret Jeane.

To George Brown, son of Charles Brown (1774-1863) were born two daughters, Hattie Wyman, Emma Jeane and a son, Dan.

To Calvin Brown, son of Charles Brown (1774-1863) were born two sons, Charles and Burton, and three daughters, Lois, Hattie and Louisa. To Charles Brown was born one daughter, Mattie Colton. To Burton Brown were born five daughters and one son, Vaughn. To Vaughn were born no children and to Lois and Linda, no children. To Luella Deerhammer, one son, Dale. To Lucile Langridge two sons, Charles and Donald, and a daughter, Dorothy. To Beneta Mohr, a daughter, Viola, and a son, Charles Burton. To Hattie VanSchoick were born one son, Clarence, and a daughter, Maidie Howard. To Clarence were born Lavonda Avery and Phyllis; to Lavonda was born a son, Wendell. To Louisa Wood was born one son, Dorr, and to Dorr, were born a son, Wayne, and a daughter, Wanda Barnes.

Robert, son of Charles Brown (1774-1863) had three sons as follows; Charles, Robert and Hiram. To Charles Brown was born a daughter, Phoebe Ann Warring and to this daughter were born two sons, Robert and Charles. To Hiram Brown were born a son and daughter, Frank and Grace. To Robert was born Robert Jr. To Robert Jr., were born two sons and a daughter as follows; Raymond, father of Jean Ray and Jack Raymond; to Wayland, no children; and Wilma Rhodes, mother of Dean and Donna Jean. To Charles Brown were born Rose Call, Roscoe and William. To Rose Call were born Opal, Maynard, Shirley, Lawrence and Kenneth. To Roscoe were born Ralph, Helen and Z. A. To William were born Donald and Dale, and a daughter, June.

To Charles Brown II, son of Charles Brown (1774--1863) were born Charles III, Jerry, Almond, Sally Ann Arnold, Emily and Morris. To Charles Brown III were born George, Cory Taylor, Lutie Miller, Charles Egbert, Lizzy and Alice Johnson. To Jerry were born George, Emma Benninghoof, Hoyt, Ella Pendell, Edna Parsons and Morris. To Almond were born no children and to Emily no children. To Morris were born one son, Homer T., and two daughters, Carrie Preston

and Jennie Golden Bratton; to Homer was born one son, Bayne. To Carrie Preston were born five sons; Paul G., to whom were born Wendell A., Robert Ashier and Jane Augusta; Hugh A., to whom were born Julia, Lucile and Hugh Jr.; Elam M., to whom were born Richard and Jean; Russell, to whom were born Russell Jr., and John; Ralph, to whom was born Mary Joan. To Barton Golden, son of Jennie Golden Bratton, were born Ruth who became mother to Joan; Lois, no children, Laurene, no children and Barton Jr. To Lutie Miller were born Trix and Blanche. To Sally Ann Arnold was born Lafayette, father of Cleo and Pearl Arnold. To Emma Benninghoof were born Clyde, Lury Landis, Ona Robinson and Lester. To Clyde were born three sons and a daughter; Blaine, Robert, Kenton and Ruth. To Lury Landis were born Iona and Maynard. To Ona Robinson were born Eula, Kenneth and Ben Jr. To Morris Brown who married Myrtie Hilton, was born Bessie Hutchins and to her were born Evelyn, Katheryn, Charles Dean and Ida Ruth.

To Hoyt Brown, son of Jerry were born Claude, Cleo, Roy, Robert, Hugh, Susie, Sarah, Esther, Nona and Harold. To Claude was born Dorothy. To Cleo, Laura and Pauline; and Laura became mother of Richard Dean. To Roy was born Margaret, Helen Mae, Bettie

and Bessie. To Robert were born Donald, Gerald, Darrel and Marjorie. To Hugh was born Joanna Sue. To Susie, no children. To Sarah Shuman, Earline. To Esther Ridenour, Lois Jean and Burdett. To Nona Allen a son, James R., and to Harold, no children.

To Ella Pendell were born Eva Johnson, Earl, and Robert William. To Eva Johnson were born Merlin, Marion, Inez, Dorothy, Robert, Kenneth, Raymond and Asa Jr. To William were born Leshonald, Donald, Robert Jr., George, Irwin, Roscoe, Dean and Phyllis. To William was born Malinda.

To Edna Parsons were born Neva, Maggie Johns and Oscar. To Neva, no children. To Maggie Johns, Darl, Donald and Warren Jr. To Oscar, no children.

Admittedly, there must be many errors in the above; it rather reminds one of those early chapters in Genesis, where the poor typsetters ran entirely out of the letters "b-e-g-a-t". I wish here to offer my congratulations to the saint who wrote those inspired bits of history. If he had one-half the confusion of names, sires, sons and daughters the writer has had in this little brochure, he simply had to have his headache and grin; there was no corner drug store with a convenient supply of aspirin in those good old days.

It may be easier for the reader to glance at all this seeming chaos much as he would the layers of shingles on a roof, taking the rows in order. In doing this, you may get a slightly clearer conception of the family history. So let us lift the curtain of antiquity and look back through the successive ages of short hair and short skirts, to the days of long hair and long skirts, hoop skirts and bustles, black lace mitts and poke bonnets, of barn raisings and husking bees, of tallow candles and clay pipes, of rail fences and home made bread. Aye, those were indeed the days!

Charles Brown (1774-1863) seems to be the ridge board and cap shingle.

The first generation of his descendants follows; Sally Lockwood, Lydia Dixon, Phoebe Christian, Mary Wilson, Thomas Brown, Gilson Brown, Calvin Brown, Robert Brown, George Brown, Jane Smith, Charles Brown.

The second generation of descendants follow; George Dixon, George Christian, John C. Brown, George Brown, Jennie Brownell, Orla Brown, Gilson Brown Jr., Callie Brown, Melzie Brown, Guy Brown, Carrie Brown, Hattie Smith Vanschoick, Louisa Wood, Charles Brown, Burton Brown, Charles Brown, Robert Brown, Phoebe Ann Warring, Hiram Brown, Hattie Wyman, Emma Gean Brown, Charles

Brown, Jerry Brown, Almond Brown, Sally Ann Arnold-Haines, Emily Brown, Morris Brown.

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The third generation follows; Blaine Brown, Clayton Brown, Hattie McKinley, Rex Brown, Ora Brown, Leon Brown, Earl Brown, Lila Wells, Ralph Brown, Hattie Brownell, Allie Smith, Pearl Brownell, Bernice Browneli, Perrin Brownell, Clarence Smith, Maidie Howard, Dorr Wood, Mattie Colton, Luella Deerhammer, Vaughn Brown, Lucile Langridge, Linda Brown, Beneta Mohr, Charles Warring, Robert Warring, Frank Brown, Grace Brown, George Brown, Cory Taylor, Lutie Miller, Bert Brown, Lizzie Brown, Alice Johnson, George Brown, Emma Benninghoof, Hoyt Brown, Ella Pendell, Edna Parsons, Morris Brown, Lafayette Arnold, Carrie Preston, Jennie Golden, Homer Brown.

The fourth generation follows; Marion Brown, Richard Blaine Brown, Eleanor McKinley, Elaine McKinley, Laverne Smith, Clark J. Smith, Elden L. Smith, Perrin Brownell Jr., Lavonda Avery Vanschoick, Phyllis Vanschoick, Wayne Wood, Wanda Barnes, Dale Deerhammer, Charles Langridge, Dorothy Langridge, Viola Mohr, Rose Call, Roscoe Warring, William Warring, Raymond Warring, Wayland Warring, Wilma Rhoades, Trix

Miller, Blanche Miller, Clyde Benninghoof, Lester Benninghoof, Lury Landis, Ona Robinson, Claude Brown, Cleo Brown, Roy Brown, Robert Brown, Hugh Brown, Susie Dennett, Sarah Shuman, Esther Ridenour, Nona Allen, Harold Brown, Eva Johnson, Earl Pendell, Robert Pendell, William Pendell, Neva Parsons, Maggie Johns, Oscar Parsons, Bessie Hutchins, Paul Preston, Hugh Preston, Elam Preston, Russell Preston, Ralph Preston, Barton Golden, Carlton Bane Brown, Kenneth Brown, Florence Brown, Evelyn Brown, Leon Brown, Jr., Wava Brown, Angeline Brown, Willis Brown, Jack Wells, Carson Brown, Melvin Brown, Helen Brown, Cleo Arnold, Pearl Arnold.

The fifth generation follows; Norris Avery, Opal Call, Maynard Call, Shirley Call, Lawrence Call, Kenneth Call, Ralph Warring, Helen Warring, Z. A. Warring, Donald Warring, Dale Warring, Jean Ray Warring, Dean Rhoades, Donna Jean Rhoades, Wendell Preston, Robert Preston, Jane Preston, Julia Preston, Lucille Preston, Hugh Preston, Jr., Richard Preston, Jean Preston, Russell Preston, Jr., John Preston, Mary Preston, Ruth Golden Austin, Lois Golden, Marjorie Golden, Laurene Golden, Barton Golden, Jr., Dorothy Brown, Laura Hulsey, Pauline

Brown, Margaret Brown, Helen Mae Brown, Bettie Brown, Bessie Brown, Donald Brown, Gerald Brown, Darrel Brown, Marjorie Brown, Joanna Sue Brown, Earline Shuman, Lois Jean Ridenour, Burdett Ridenour, Evelyn Hutchins, Darl Johns, Warren Johns, Jr., Blaine Benninghoof, Robert Benninghoof, Kenton Benninghoof, Ruth Benninghoof, Iona Landis, Maynard Landis, Eula Robinson, Kenneth Robinson, Ben Robinson, Jr., Merlin Johnson, Marion Johnson, Inez Johnson, Dorothy Johnson, Kenneth Johnson, Raymond Johnson, Margaret Johnson, Asa Johnson, Jr., Leshonald Pendell, Donald Pendell, Robert Pendell, Jr., George Irwin Pendell, Roscoe Dean Pendell, Malinda Pendell, Katheryn Hutchins, Kenneth Hutchins, Charles Dean Hutchins, Ida Ruth Hutchins.

The sixth generation follows; Richard Dean Hulsey, Clifford Johnston, Paul Johnston, Joanne Lois Austin.



Since the foregoing pages were set in type, we learn that the father of Charles Brown (1774-1863) was John Brown, born Nov. 1st, 1753. He was father of eleven children, 5 sons and 6 daughters as follows: Martha, Charles, Jane, Ann, John, Phoebe, Polly, James, Amy, Jeremiah and Morris. The son, Charles, married Ann Christian and to them were born two daughters, Jane Hoyt Smith and Mary Wilson; and three sons, Thomas, Calvin and Gilson. Therefore it appears that some of the history in the first pages of this booklet are } in error.

However, with this beginning we may now trace our residential New York relatives as follows; starting with the above Phoebe Sweet. To her was born a daughter, Ann, and to Ann was born a son, Robert; to Robert were born four sons and three daughters as follows: Albert C., Horace, John H., Charles R., Anna L., Susie B., and Mary A.

To Albert were born Mina, Claude, Vernon and Leroy. Mina is mother to Elizabeth and Edna. To Claude were born no children. To Vernon, a daughter Catherine; to Leroy, no children. To Horace were born no children. To John H., was born a daughter, Ella, who is mother of Howard, Arlene, Mildred and Robert J. To Charles R., were born George,

Orilla and William. To George was born a daughter, Inez Moore, mother of Paul and Merl. To Orilla was born Jessis Belle, mother of William. And to William, son of Charles R., was born Myrtie Ballard. To Anna L., was born Willard, Thelma and Carlton. To Susie B., no children. To Mary A., were born twelve children as follows: Allie, Gladys, Alberta, Irene, Robert, Raymond, Viola, Leon, Warren, Helen, Kenneth and Burton.

It is earnestly asked that whoever can furnish additional data regarding the above, or correct any errors (and there are plenty) correspond with the writer of this booklet and state clearly just what the error is and if possible, trace your lineage straight back to the original John Brown of 1753. The writer agrees to publish a new booklet within the present year with the object of having every statement authentic and if possible, more in detail. Such information should be mailed to Blaine Brown, Jackson, Michigan.























